

HOUSE BILL 2785  
By Clem

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 24,  
Chapter 7, relative to evidence.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 24, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

**§ 24-7-\_\_\_\_.**

(a) In the trial of any civil suit involving injury, disease, or disability, the patient or a member of the patient's family or other person responsible for the care of the patient shall be a competent witness to identify bills for expenses incurred in the treatment of the patient upon a showing by such witness that the expenses were incurred in connection with the treatment of the injury, disease, or disability involved in the subject of the litigation at trial and that the bills were received from:

- (1) A hospital, outpatient center or diagnostic testing facility or related provider or facility;
- (2) An ambulance service;
- (3) A pharmacy, drugstore, or supplier of therapeutic or orthopedic devices; or
- (4) A licensed practicing physician, chiropractor, dentist, orthotist, podiatrist, or psychologist.

(b) Such items of evidence need not be identified by the person who submitted the bills and it shall not be necessary for an expert witness to testify that the charges were reasonable and necessary.

(c) When bills for expenses are used at trial pursuant to this section, the party desiring to use such bills for expenses in evidence shall serve the opposing party with a copy of such bills no later than sixty (60) days before the trial with notice that such bills may be offered in evidence.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the right of cross-examination as to such items of evidence.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006, the public welfare requiring it.